



East Rochester Schools  
200 Woodbine Ave. East Rochester, NY 14445 Website: <http://www.erschools.org>  
(585) 248-6350 Fax: (585) 248-6383

Dear East Rochester Families,

I hope everyone had a great few days off. I enjoyed Thanksgiving with my family. I have a lot to be thankful for this year, and the East Rochester community is one of the many blessings in my life. Thank you for that.

The Thursday before Thanksgiving, **Food Services staff** provided a wonderful Thanksgiving meal to students and staff. The food was delicious. They outdid themselves with this feast!



The **Middle Level Academy** has begun our social-emotional curriculum, Second Step, that will continue weekly through March. 6-8 Grade Counselor, Adam Laycock, joined our School Social Workers Melissa Sewruk and Eridan Maeder to facilitate the workshops for grades 6-8. Second Step provides instruction in social and emotional learning with units on skills for learning, empathy, emotion management, friendship skills and problem solving. The students enjoy this interactive time to focus on themselves and their well-being.

We had our **MLA Student Council Elections** November 3 for MLA. It was a unique, virtual election. All of the students who ran worked hard to create campaign slides and videos explaining WHY they should be voted into office. The MLA student body voted for them in a democratic election process. Thank you to ALL candidates for having the desire to LEAD and the COURAGE to run for an office in the Student Council!! It was a VERY CLOSE race. The following students were voted into office: Elise Smith, President; Mia Rountree, Vice President; Stacy Cooper, Treasurer; and Adriana Smith, Secretary.

**Seniors** have been working with their school counselors, applying to colleges and filing for financial aid. Any senior that has not made a plan should touch base with their counselor prior to Holiday Recess.

### *Around School/In the Classroom:*

There are some very interesting activities going on inside our classrooms that I thought would be fun to highlight this month. It is truly amazing to see all the interesting things that are happening!

In **Mrs. Barnes Italian classroom**, students are researching interesting facts about the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci. Here are the highlights of what they found:

- The painting was sold in an auction for \$59!
- The painting cannot be found in a museum but in a convent in Milan. You need to book your visit with the convent 4 months in advance!
- Musicians speculated that the true hidden message in *The Last Supper* is an accompanying soundtrack. In 2007, Italian musician Giovanni Maria Pala recited 40 seconds of a somber song using notes that were encoded within da Vinci's distinctive composition.
- John may be actually Mary. To the right of Jesus in the painting is the apostle, John. Except this person is the only person among the apostles not wearing a pendant or necklace, so John could be Mary Magdalene in disguise!
- There is a numerological significance in the painting. Da Vinci often used maths and numerological aspects of his artwork. In *The Last Supper*, the number 3 is depicted in many ways. There are groups of 3 apostles and groups of 3 widows at the backside of the apostles. Jesus is also positioned as a triangle in the painting.
- Most of the original brush strokes in the Last Supper are gone.
- Da Vinci did not believe in God; he believed in nature.
- The salt spilled on the table could be a symbol of bad luck, loss or religion.
- It is said that Jesus gives the other half of the pretzel to Judas, which reveals how Christ has offered him penance for his sins.
- To capture the perfect angles that make up the scene, Da Vinci hammered a nail into a wall and tied the canvas to a string with a guiding mark.
- The original painting is 15 ft. x 29 ft.



In Government classes with **Mr. Hendy**, students attempted to determine the electoral college map for the Election of 2020 (left).

**Mrs. Kemper's** Spanish 2 class spent an afternoon outside creating Flipgrid videos when the weather was too nice to stay inside (right).



**Ms. Baughman's** physics class was studying the patterns of motion using an app called Motion Shot. "There's an equation for that!"

**Former ER student Collin Gibboney** and his business partners Chris McGill and Mark Ricci reached out to the district after finding success with their automotive business, Northside Auto Sales. Gibboney says he was looking for a way to give back and spread kindness after his personal success.



The former student decided to give a current, deserving East Rochester student a car. After speaking with teachers and administrators at the high school, Gibboney and Ricci decided to present the car to Ashtyn. Ashtyn says he couldn't believe the surprise and that he was grateful to the team for their gift. Then, he hopped in the car to take it for a test drive!



### **Yearbooks are now on sale for the MLA and the High School!**

High School Yearbooks are on sale now through January at the discounted rate of \$45 (plus a \$1 transaction fee) and can be ordered at [www.balfour.com](http://www.balfour.com).

High School Yearbook Club needs your pictures! Please consider sending any pictures you have of school-related events to [yearbook@erschools.org](mailto:yearbook@erschools.org) or uploading them directly with ImageShare (see directions [here](#)).

MLA Yearbooks are currently on sale for \$20 and can be ordered at [www.balfour.com](http://www.balfour.com). If you need help ordering, a video with directions can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Hendy at [gretchen.hendy@erschools.org](mailto:gretchen.hendy@erschools.org) or Mrs. Baliva at [laura.baliva@erschools.org](mailto:laura.baliva@erschools.org).

We had an amazing season with our **sports teams**. East Rochester is very proud to announce that:

- Our **Field Hockey** team won the Class B Section V Championship, they were also awarded as a NYSPHSAA Scholar athlete team (please see Tammy for team members names)
- Our **Girls Tennis** team was Wayne County League Champions and Class C Section V Champions. In addition they were also awarded as a NYSPHSAA Scholar athlete team (please see Tammy for team members names)
- Our **Boys Varsity Soccer** team Was Wayne County League Champions and Class C1 Section V Champions. 11 members of their team also received scholar athlete recognition

*A few reminders worth repeating:*

**Daily attendance** is extremely important. On Remote learning days, please click you are remote learning!

We need very specific information for absences this year. It is important that you let us know the reason for the absence and if your student is out two or more days, a doctor's note needs to be provided or a negative covid test."

The daily attendance phone number is (585) 248-6321.

**Dates to Remember for December/January:**

Tuesday, December 8 - PTA Meeting 6:30 p.m., email [erpta2020@gmail.com](mailto:erpta2020@gmail.com) for Zoom link

Tuesday, December 15 - BOE Meeting 6 p.m., Elementary Cafeteria

Wednesday, December 23 - Friday, January 1 - Holiday Recess

Tuesday, January 12 - PTA Meeting 6 p.m., Elementary Cafeteria

Monday, January 18 - Martin Luther King Day - No School

Tuesday, January 19 - BOE Meeting 6 pm., Elementary Cafeteria

Friday, January 29 - Grades 6-12 Second Quarter Marking Period Ends

*My door is always open – please feel free to keep in touch!*

Sincerely,

Casey van Harssel, Ed.D.

Principal